LOUISIANA conservationist

march—april, 1971

comments

"If a house be divided against itself; that house cannot stand." Matthew

From a dollar standpoint, Louisiana's shrimp industry is the state's most important fisheries resource. In 1970, Louisiana shrimp fishermen landed 90,717,000 pounds of shrimp. This was total poundage. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries figures show that heads-off poundage amounted to 57,660,000 pounds.

Dockside value to shrimp fishermen was $34,583,000; however, the dockside value of the annual shrimp catch marks only the start of an economic cycle that runs the value of the shrimp crop up many millions of additional dollars. I am referring to the numerous industries that are in whole, or in part, associated with the actual catching of shrimp.

These include processing plants, ice and freezer plants, manufacturers of trawls and other machinery used by shrimp fishermen, ship yards, transportation companies, and other industries whose welfare is hinged to a successful catch of shrimp each year. The overall industry is valued at approximately $100,000,000 a year to the State of Louisiana.

The catch may vary somewhat from year to year, but in those years when it has been down as far as poundage is concerned, prices remained high and this offset the decreased catch. Proper management of the shrimp industry is vital to many thousands of persons in Louisiana.

Last November the Louisiana Supreme Court declared R.S. 56: 495, defining inside and outside waters for the taking of shrimp, unconstitutional because of vagueness, ambiguity and indefiniteness. In effect, the Supreme Court's ruling left the state temporarily without a legal boundary defining inside and outside waters.

The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is charged with the responsibility of establishing definite management programs and policies for the state's shrimp resources, and is vested with the exclusive authority and control of the shrimping industry by the Louisiana Constitution and adopted statutes.

At the regular February public meeting of the Commission in New Orleans, a resolution was adopted to accomplish a meaningful shrimp resource management program for the coming year. This resolution was adopted in the exercise of the control and authority vested by law in the Commission.

In that meeting, the Commission did establish and define inside and outside waters. A description of those boundaries is on file in the Oyster, Water Bottoms and Seafood Division in the Commission's main office. Additionally, this boundary has been widely publicized throughout the state.

It is further resolved that as of February 16, the season for the taking of shrimp in inside waters is closed until further action of the Commission and no trawling in inside waters shall be permitted.

The new boundary line between inside and outside waters, as adopted by the Commission, is essentially the same as the old line shown on maps and is now described by Lambert coordinates as well as longitude and latitude.

For the past several years there has been considerable dispute among shrimpers in various parts of the state as to the proper dates for the spring and fall trawling seasons in inside waters. It is not unusual for there to be differences of opinion in this or any other matter.

On the other hand, these differences of opinion have sometimes led to flagrant violations of the seasons as fixed by the Commission. In many cases, had the Commission yielded to the demands of minority groups, the entire industry would have suffered.

Vast research takes place each year before the Commission actually sets the spring and fall seasons. That this scientific management of the shrimp resource has been to the advantage of the majority of persons in the shrimp industry is easily seen in available statistics.

It is possible that the present authority of the Commission will be challenged in the courts; or that new laws will be proposed in the Legislature.

The time has come for all factions, regional groups of shrimpers, and organized associations, to get together and support what will be in the best interests of the majority of persons in the shrimp industry, as well as what will be best for the State of Louisiana. Without sincere accord, it is possible that the industry will suffer, to the economic detriment of many people.

LOUISIANA conservationist

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I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.

The Louisiana Conservationist received two awards for excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators District II at the annual conference in Athens, Georgia. It was named Best Overall Magazine and Best Nonprofit Organization's Magazine.

JOHN J. McKEITHEN, Governor

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listening in on bugged bears

McFadden Duffy

Capturing, tagging and bugging black bears with radio transmitters so their movements can be traced, marks an electronic step forward in wildlife research in Louisiana, adding another interesting chapter to the annals of efforts by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to restock the state with bears trapped in Minnesota and transplanted to Louisiana.

Wildlife researchers at Louisiana State University, in cooperation with the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, are employing radio telemetry techniques in an exciting study of black bears in the Atchafalaya Basin near Krotz Springs.

John D. Newsom, leader of the Louisiana Wildlife Research Unit at LSU, is directing the study with the assistance of David F. Taylor, LSU wildlife graduate student and biologist with the Commission's Fish and Game Division.

Newsom said that the bears, transplanted to the state several years ago seem to be thriving. Native black bears formerly inhabited the area, but some time ago they either left or became extinct.

Aim of the research is to keep an electronic surveillance on four adult male and female bears and two yearlings every fall, winter, spring and summer.

The black bear once ranged over most of Louisiana but finally almost disappeared from most of its native haunts. In 1954 the season on bear was so poor that it was closed the following year. It remained closed until 1962 when it was again opened. The hunting seasons of 1962 and 1963 produced little hunter success. The Commission closed the season in 1964 and pondered the problem of restocking the state with bear.

Native bear range had shrunk as a result of vast acreages of timbered areas being cleared for agricultural purposes. The remaining native habitat known to contain bears was an area in northeast Louisiana and in the lower Atchafalaya Basin. Only on rare occasions were bears reported in other areas of the state. Habitat destruction was the main reason for the decline in Louisiana's bear population.

The Commision was well aware that there was little it could do to renew bear habitat, but felt there was possibly a place for man and bear to co-exist on some of the remaining wooded areas of the state. In order to investigate this possibility, a bear restocking program was begun in 1964 and ontinued through the summer of 967. The State of Minnesota offered bears to Louisiana, provided Commission personnel would trap them. The Minnesota black bear is the same species formerly abundant in Louisiana.

In the four summers the bear restocking program was carried on, 156 bears were captured in Minnesota and released in Louisiana. Of the 156 bears, 39 were released in Madison and Tensas Parishes, with the remainder going to the Atchafalaya Basin in Pointe Coupee Parish.

Of the total bears released, 35 have been verified as having been killed. These met death in various ways, such as being hit by automobiles or being shot.

Initial stocking of the black bears captured in Minnesota provided a somewhat humorous interlude for Louisianians. Ordinarily, bears captured and trucked to Louisiana from Minnesota should have lost little time in taking to the deepest woods. On the contrary, some bears showed up in towns. They were recaptured and returned to the original release sites.

One humorous instance warrants recounting. A bear was reported in a tree near a school in Slidell. Wildlife Agents rushed to the scene and a plan was formu-

1. No it's not Smokey, but an imported Minnesota bear that climbed a Louisiana tree and had to be tranquilized. 2. After the bears are trapped they are transported to Louisiana for release in suitable habitat. 3. Wild Life Biologist gets a closer look at a hibernating bear.

Opposite page: The bottom of the hollow tree must have looked quite cozy to this bear for he will spend approximately three months here in hibernation.

lated to remove the bear from the tree and place it in a nearby heavily forested area. A "cherry picker", one of those hinged mechanical lifts with a basketlike compartment used by power line and telephone line workmen, was secured.

When the basket was placed under the bear, it was shot with a tranquilizer dart, administered by a specially designed CO^2 rifle. The bear drifted off to sleep and fell into the basket of the cherry picker. It was tied and rushed by truck to the release site. When it recovered from the tranquilizer it found itself in a deeply wooded swamp.

There have been no recent reports of bear visiting communities so it can be assumed that they have become accustomed to Louisiana's deep forests.

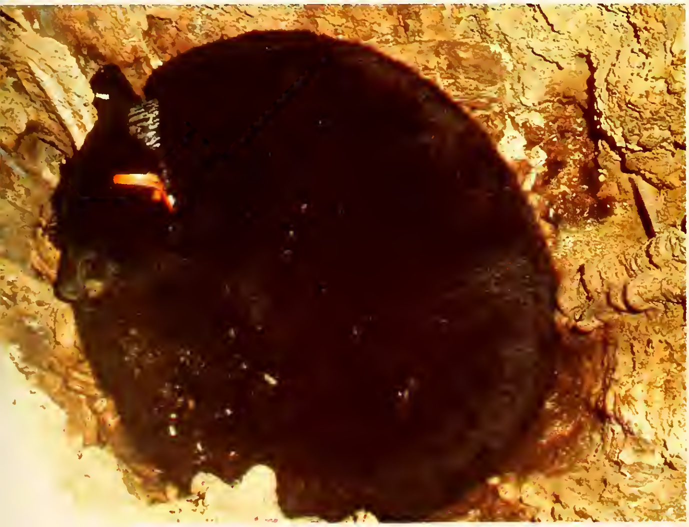
Returning to the work that is being done at present, the task of capturing and equipping the bears with transmitters must be repeated every season because the radic batteries are good for only approximately 120 days.

In October of last year a male, two females and a male yearling were outfitted with collars, holding a transmitter and aerial. They were also given a different color combination of ear tags so each individual can be identified on sight.

The bears are captured by tranquilizing them with those dart guns packing an immobilizing drug or by luring them with bait into a modified culvert trap. This is usually a steel drum with a drop gate that closes when the bear enters and seeks the food inside. Honey, bacon and corn are used to attract a bear into such a trap.

After the bear is captured it is put to sleep with an injection of a special drug. It is a groggy bear that finally awakens and wanders off into the woods, wearing his collar and transmitter.

The bear's signals are picked up with radio receivers enabling the researchers to pinpoint exactly their location at a given time. The receiving equipment may be carried on a man's shoulders, or operated in a vehicle or airplane.



Recent studies indicate that the bears remain in a relatively confined area. This is a far cry from their early habits when they were first released in Louisiana.

Through the tracking technique, the yearling that had been bugged was located high up in an oak tree, contentedly eating acorns. Adults are now known to be tree climbers of great skill.

Newsom said that the research program would result in a thorough biological study of the bear in their re-established habitat. This includes their daily and seasonal movements, population and reproduction rates, and eating habits and food sources.

It was suspected that the imported bears hibernate in the winter because they were not sighted in the months of December, January and February, times when the native Louisiana black bears remain active. This question was solved with the bugged bears.

With the radio tracking method it was determined that the bears that were imported from Minnesota do hibernate in tree hollows, or other places. Hibernating bears were located by the transmitted signals from the collar and one hibernating bear was photographed in a hollow tree. It merely opened its eyes when the flash bulbs went off and then dozed on, ignoring the intruders.

Newsom expressed the opinion that the practice of hibernating might be a carry over of what the bears and their ancestors were accustomed to doing in cold Minnesota.

It has been observed that the imported bears, which weigh from 190 to 250 pounds as adults, put on weight in preparation for their winter inactivity.

The Commission transplanted them in the secluded areas because it seemed that they would have natural protection. Although some of the known dead imports were shot, those cases are few and resulted from a few hunters suddenly finding themselves face to face with a bear.

The transplanted bears have spread throughout the Atchafalaya Basin and one was even sighted as far north as the upper region of Mississippi. Newsom said bears have been sighted in many areas of the state and there is quite a group of native bears in West Cote Blanche Island, south of New Iberia. Some bears also inhabit the Tunica Hills north of St. Francisville.

Listening in on the bugged bears has already proved that the ones imported from Minnesota hibernate while native Louisiana black bears do not. This electronic eavesdropping will probably turn up other secrets, providing many bare facts on black bears.

Soon after the close of the quail and rabbit hunting seasons, while the woods are still winter-bare and most of the deciduous trees have not yet started to leaf out, there are bursts of color that almost startle persons who see them.

It may be that they have occasion to be in the woods scouting out possible areas that wild turkeys are using, searching for places to hunt when the spring turkey season opens.

On the other hand they may be bass fishermen paddling down meandering streams in wooded areas when they suddenly come upon those bursts of color—pink or white—along the tree lined banks.

This surprising color so early in the year is a sign of spring and the trees that put forth their showy blossoms so early in the spring are the white dogwood and the pink redbud. They are forest trees of Louisiana, but in many cases they have been transplanted, or purchased from nurseries, for use as ornamentals around homes and in some cases in community landscaping.

The dogwood tree (Cornus florida) grows approximately 15 to 20 feet high and equally as wide. For from two to four weeks at the very start of the demarkation from winter to early spring it produces small greenish-yellow flowers which are surrounded by four large white bracts, each with a sort of nick at the edge.

The flowers appear about the time the new leaves arrive and are followed by fruits which are green at first and turn red later on. Birds, incidently, feed eagerly on the fruits after the flowering is over.

Dogwood trees have horizontal branching and leaves two to six inches long, opposite each other and elliptic to oval in shape. The leaves turn a brilliant red in the fall and winter before they shed.

Dogwood trees grow wild in the uplands of Louisiana. They thrive in the Florida Parishes but do not fare well in the heavy clay soils of the Mississippi flood plain.

For those who might be interested

A Sign of Spring

in transplanting one, or perhaps obtaining a dogwood tree from a nursery; here are some planting tips. The tree prefers well drained sandy soil which is slightly acid. This can be simplified by saying that dogwood trees will grow in any soil in which pine trees will grow. They will also thrive in about the same conditions that camellias and azaleas do; and they will also grow in sun or partial shade.

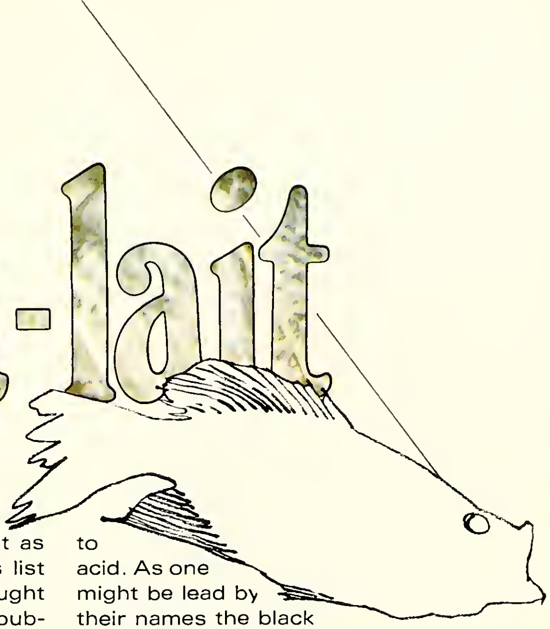
The redbud tree (Cercis canadensis) blooms early in the spring as does the dogwood. It is usually a low, spreading tree from 15 to 30 feet; but sometimes makes a much larger tree. With graceful branches and pretty leaves, it is attractive the year around. It grows rapidly, is free from disease, and easy to transplant.

In shape, the leaves are perfect hearts; they are bright green and from three to six inches long. The reddish-purple, pea-shaped flowers are borne in numerous clusters along the twigs and branches, and appear before the leaves in very early spring. On some trees the flowers are lilac. The fruit is a very thin, dry bean with tiny, shiny seeds. The beans mature in late summer, but cling through most of the winter. The food value for birds is not known. They are beautiful reminders that spring is just around the corner wherever they are observed; but encountering them in the woods is an experience that one seldom forgets.

sac-a-lait

. . . A SUCCULENT SPORT FISH

BY BOB DENNIE



The crappie in Louisiana has just about as many aliases as someone on the FBI's list of most wanted men and is probably sought after more intensely than any of these public enemies.

These finned fighters are divided into two distinct species, the black crappie or calico bass or strawberry bass. The white crappie, also called white perch and sac-a-lait (this is strictly a south Louisiana term derived from the French background. It refers to the white flaky texture of the flesh. It literally means "sack of milk"), bachelor perch, camplite, lamplighter, paper mouth and tin mouth.

It really doesn't matter what you call them for no matter how you string your vowels and consonants together it will still come out as great fun and fantastic eating.

Predominantly the white crappie is more at home in bayous, ponds, sloughs, and sluggish backwaters, preferring turbid and slightly alkaline waters. Throughout the mid-south rivers system it would be a safe generalization to say that it is fond of waters with warm muddy bottoms.

The black crappie, also called the calico bass, speckled perch and strawberry bass in various parts of the country, likes the clearer, cooler waters of rock and gravel bottom streams, waters that are neutral to acid. As one might be lead by their names the black crappie is darker in coloring, with black irregular speckles over a silvery background. It has a mottled appearance and black or black-green coloring on the dorsal fin (which has seven or more spines) and fins.

The back edge of the dorsal is rounded. The lower jaw does not protrude much as in his counterpart.

More silvery in color, the white crappie (or sac-a-lait) has several dark bands extending downward from the back. The back edge of his dorsal fin is straight and has from five to six spines. Another telltale sight to look for are the eyes. Blacks will be a deep blue with a golden circle about the iris; the eye of the white crappie is lighter in color.

Fishermen can often be fooled if they give only a quick glance to the color, assuming the darker crappie to be a black. But this is not always the case. True, the black crappie is much darker than his kissing cousin, except the male at spawning time. So check the dorsal fin, lower jaw and the eyes. The surest way to be certain is to contact one of the fisheries biologists for positive identification.

Black crappie have a larger range in that they are found in forty-eight states and the white in only thirty-six, but the latter are quite often more numerous in states having both species due to their ability to withstand more adverse water conditions, and because of their prolific nature. The white crappie will eventually dominate when the two are found occupying the same waters.

Fishing for the crappie usually hits a fevered pitch during spawning time. Variances in this period are determined by geographical locations. In the south it usually occurs from March to May. The water is the factor activating the big crappie when the temperature gets into the sixties. The ideal temperature will be about 68 degrees.

Success in filling out your limit will lie in determining what depth of water they have chosen to start their spawning spree. Some say they will spawn from ten inches to ten feet, others say three feet is the minimum and eight feet is the maximum. So you can see there is no set depth. Only by trial and error will you determine where the action is. Once you find this area stay with it.

Crappie feed on zooplankton, insects, May flies, young shad, minnows, crappie and sun fish. Basically they like to feed in the darker depths of the water only actively feeding in shallow water during the early morning and late evening hours. Sunlight is not to their liking and they will retreat to the shade or deep water when the sun gets too bright. This is probably one of the reasons that nature has equipped them with large protruding eyes. Gray overcast days, when clouds hide the sun, are excellent, and if you can get the weatherman to throw in a little humidity in the form of a light drizzle you will have perfect crappie weather.

Their populations are usually cyclic. By

this I mean that they will usually produce great catches for two or three seasons then suddenly slack off or almost completely disappear for a similar period.

In a year when food and spawning conditions are ideal they will produce a large, surviving brood. This progeny dominates and in subsequent years devours its own young. This annual eradication of young and spawn continues until the original brood is so diminished in numbers that it cannot consume all of the annual spawn. Consequently the cycle will begin all over again. These are rather short-lived fish and a four to six year life span is about the maximum.

The type of equipment that you use will depend upon the type of bait you use and the depth of water most of the time. Most of these fish are caught on shiners about one or two inches long, just large enough to entice crappie, but not too big as to make it difficult for them to grab.

They almost never nibble, but if they do, or if they spit the bait out, take time to check the shiner. If it is damaged or dead discard it as crappie always go for a fresh, lively bait. An added inducement is a small gold spinner just above the bait.

Hook size is very important as is the type. Usually a small thin hook is best, about a number 1/0 or 2/0 gold Aberdeen is perfect. This light hook will not damage the shiner and will bend and come unhooked from any submerged objects you might encounter.

Most successful fishermen hook their shiner either through the lips or in the body just above the tail. These two methods usually do the least amount of damage and keep baits alive a great deal longer. A little added trick is to trim off the upper lobe of the tail fin. This will make the bait work a lot harder to maintain equilibrium and make it more appealing to the crappie. Make sure the float you use is rather small and will not offer too much resistance to the fish when he takes the bait.

Hooking the crappie will call for a little patience. Most beginners have a tendency to jerk back on the line as soon as the cork goes down, but this will usually mean losing the crappie, as well as the bait. Sucking the bait down, they will usually try and head for deep water, so be patient. Let them pull the float down and allow them to go a little distance. Then slowly set the hook, don't jerk the line! They have a very tender mouth, hence the name "paper mouth", so take it easy. Usually a crappie will give a few tugs and a short run. Then it will surface serenely.

Cane poling with minnows is about the most widespread method of taking the gregarious crappie, but the spinning rig with light tackle can be great sport and will enable you to reach those spots that you might "spook" with a cane pole. If you do use the spinning rig with live bait always remember to start your cast from the back position as it will keep you from killing or even losing your shiner.

Artificial baits can be excellent if you fish in waters that will allow their use. By this I mean it would be almost impossible to fish small jigs and spinner type baits in some of the waters of south Louisiana where the brush and vegetation is often thick. You will spend a great deal of your time trying to get unhung from these obstacles, as well as losing a lot of tackle.

I have found that the best rigs in the southern part of our state will be either a cane pole (or a telescoping glass one) about twelve to fourteen feet long or a fairly limber fly rod with light to medium monofiliment line, depending on the places your fishing might take you. Line strength should run from a minimum of four to a maximum of ten pounds test. Heavy line will have a tendency to curl and impede the action of the live bait whereas, too light a line will break or cut too easily in the brush.

Some people will fish only with a light spinning rig. This can be a great combination. You can cast to those spots out of the reach of the cane poler and fish more areas in less time provided you have the casting skill to handle an off balance and delicate combination such as a small float with a shiner. Many men have spent a great deal of their fishing time hooked in the brush along the bank and thrown half of their supply of shiners off into the wild blue yonder before they got the feel of handling such a combination.

Spinning rigs have another advantage in that with a short limber rod with free spooling you can drop the bait into some tight areas where this would be impossible with a longer pole.

The best crappie fishermen get their lines hung on underwater obstructions a few times in the course of a day's outing. This is to be expected because if it doesn't happen to you once in a while, then you aren't fishing where the crappie are.

Basically, in Louisiana we have four types of waters in which we fish for these kings of the pan fishes; deep water areas such as Toledo Bend, oxbow rivers such as Old River at Innis, medium to shallow lakes such as Black Lake at Campti or Lac Des Allemands and the many bayous throughout the state. I realize that there are many other bodies of water that I haven't mentioned, but I used these just to illustrate a point.

Toledo Bend is the nation's hot spot when conditions are right. I have received reports of boats taking as many as two hundred crappie or white perch, in this area. Also a great many were fishing them at night from midnight until dawn. On this body of water they were able to fish in up to eighteen feet of water.

It might be well to mention here that there is no limit on white perch on Toledo Bend due to the size of the impoundment and the abundance of these fish. Also, due to its size it's always best to check the local marinas as to the depth the fish are hitting.

Fishermen at Old River will often find these scrappy fish usually in the deeper waters all year long, even during spawning, but the big fish, and I do mean big ones, will usually be caught in the shallow waters of the willow trees in about three feet of water where they come to do their nesting.

This famous body of water uses a unique system to produce good fishing even for those that do not have a boat and motor. The dock I have fished out of at Innis has a raft off shore about sixty yards made of logs and planks. It even has a small sheltered house in case the elements get rather bad. Under this raft they have sunk old trees and brush to attract and keep the fish. Raft fishing can be a great way to get the kids and the wife interested in this great sport.

Black Lake can be fished almost like a bayou as it is very similar to water in south Louisiana although it is less than seventy miles south of Shreveport. But the local boat dock operator can clue you in on the ways of success here.

Dropping a lively shiner into brush piles, fallen tree tops, and cypress knees, will almost always produce action in the bayous of southern Louisiana.

Anglers in the Pelican state are indeed fortunate to have such great fishing all year long in some form or another. But the season peaks on pan fishing can be fantastic and unmatched anywhere in the world. Evidence to this is attested to by the fact that the world's record crappie was caught in Louisiana by a thirteen year old girl named Leslie Robertson. This barn door sized fish weighed 6 pounds and was caught less than ten minutes from downtown New Orleans.

Pan fishing is something the whole family can enjoy with relatively little expense or trouble. Not only do these fish provide untold hours of enjoyment on the water, but dipped in a good batter type of meal from corn flakes to corn meal, and dropped in a pot of hot grease, fried to a golden brown; the fun you had putting them on the stringer will run a close second to all of the enjoyment they serve up on the table.

new record fish have salty flavor

These pages contain the Louisiana Record Fish, referred to as the "Top Ten" by anglers throughout the state. The list is up to date as of January 21, 1971. Any fish entering the official records after that date will appear later in the year when the list will again be revised following the summer fishing rodeos. Dan Hardesty, Sports Editor of the Baton Rouge State-Times, is official record keeper for the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association, sponsor of the Louisiana Fish Records. While it is possible that some individuals may have caught larger fish than those appearing in the eligible fish categories on these pages; they do not become official unless the LOWA affidavit is completed and mailed to Dan Hardesty, c/o The Baton Rouge State-Times, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Forms may be obtained by writing the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, Information Section, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

BASS, LARGEMOUTH:

11-11, Elwin Husser, Nov. 1958
11- 6, Zeke Davis, March 1962
11- 0, Robert Berry, March 1969
10- 6, Rufus Williams, Aug. 1956
10- 4, Nat Smith, 1958
10- 1, J. E. Stewart, 1957
10- 1, Clarence Harrison, May 1970
10- 0, George Berger, Jan. 1960
10- 0, George Wilson, March 1950
9-14, Henry H. Harris, March 1964

BASS, WHITE:

3-14, Sam Parrish, Feb. 1969

BASS, SPOTTED:
(Kentucky)

4- 3, Carroll Perkins
3- 0, Gladney Davison, May 1969
2-15, Dr. Lyle St. Amant, Aug. 1965
2-12, Richard Efferson, Sept. 1968
2- 8, Lynn Knippers, May 1966
2- 5, Gladney Davidson, Sept. 1969
2- 4, Max Summers, June 1965
1-13, J. W. McFatter, April 1964

CRAPPIE: (sacalait)

6- 0, Lettie Robertson, Nov. 1969
4- 4, Welzie Garett, April 1950
3-14, Pat Cullen, March 1960
3-13½, Nellie Keller, Feb. 1964
3- 3, E. Lawrence Klein, April 1968
2-14, Leander Frey, April 1953
2-12, Mabel Slaton, April 1964
2- 4, James D. McGovern, Jr., Feb. 1968
2- 4, James D. McGovern Jr., Feb. 1968
2- 0, James D. McGovern Jr., Feb. 1968

BREAM:

2- 8, Grant M. Kelly, 1959
2- 8, J. W. Parker Jr., June 1961
2- 5, Lloyd G. Hoover, April 1970
2- 4, J. W. Parker Jr., May 1960
2- 2, Otis Marshall, May 1966
2- 1, Dee Murphy, April 1957
1-14, Fernin Grigsby, 1947
1-14, E. T. George, May 1967
1-12, James A. Hawkins, May 1970
1-11, Fred W. Elliott, April 1962

CATFISH:

62- 0, James W. Hibben, March 1970
52- 3, Darrell J. Farris, Jan. 1970
52- 0, James W. Hibben, Jan. 1970
46- 0, E. F. Witteborg, June 1966
25- 9, James D. McGovern Jr., Jan. 1969

AMBERJACK:

86- 4, Frank Ecker, July 1969
83- 0, George Tucker, July 1959
75-12, F. C. Buchanan, June 1965
68- 4, Raymond Miramon, July 1969
67- 0, Leo Foretich, July 1970
64- 4, Mrs. Harold Harleaux, July 1965
63- 0, Don Lyman, July 1958
62- 0, Mrs. Edwin Loe, July 1958
60- 8, Larry Johnson, July 1968
57- 4, Arthur F. Barry Sr., July 1969

BARRACUDA:

50- 0, A. C. Mills, Aug. 1970
44- 8, Jep. E. Turner Jr., Sept. 1968
40-0, J. J. Jones, Sept. 1966
38-4, Nolan McCrain, July 1967
37- 8, John Dofter, April 1965
37- 8, Richard Glynn, July 1965
36-12, C. F. Carter Jr., July 1959
36- 8, Frank Heard, July 1958
35- 0, Myrton Landry, May 1967
34- 8, Frank Van Sickle, April 1965

BLUEFISH:

12- 8, James F. Collins, Sept. 1970
12- 0, Alwyn John Justrabo Jr., Sept. 1968
11- 6, Virgil McKain, Aug. 1970
11- 3, Loran D. Ewin, Sept. 1968
10- 6, Ken Rushing, July 1968
10- 4, William Cochran, Aug. 1969
10- 2, Duffy Borden, Nov. 1967
9-12, Ken Rushing, July 1968
9- 8, Dr. Wilson P. Couch, July 1969
9- 7, Eugene P. LeCompte, March 1967
9- 7, Holt H. Fastring, Sept. 1970

BONITO:

24-12, Joseph W. Gex, June 1970
24- 9, Stirling Couch, July 1949
23- 0, Charles Andres III, July 1949
20- 0, Mrs. Lester Plaisance, July 1959
16- 4, G. R. Murphy Jr., Aug. 1969

COBIA:

149-12, Garnett L. Caudell, May 1965
82-12, Alphonse S. Hebert Sr., Nov. 1967
82- 8, Harry Morris, May 1966
75- 0, James G. McMurry, May 1967
75- 0, Harry H. Anderson, June 1969
73- 0, Jack Dart, May 1954
68- 0, Robert G. Hebert, May 1964
67- 8, Drew DuRocher, Sept. 1968
66- 0, Joseph Boudreaux, July 1966
65- 9, R. L. Watson Jr., May 1967

DOLPHIN:

59-12, Stuart W. Wilson, June 1969
56-12, Wayne Plaisance, June 1968
54- 0, August Perez Jr., July 1966
53- 8, Clyde V. Hawk, June 1967
53- 8, Salvatore Perino, July 1968
51- 0, Robert Sharp, June 1965
51- 0, L. J. Miller Jr., June 1970
50- 4, C. M. Falcon, May 1967
50- 0, Harley B. Howcott, May 1962
50- 0, Harley B. Howcott, May 1966

FLOUNDER:

11-1¼, Clarence Craig, Nov. 1967
11- 0, Lee W. Coulon, Nov. 1967
11- 0, George E. Stevens, Nov. 1967
11- 0, Henry Schomaker, Dec. 1968
10- 0, Richard J. Boll Jr., July 1965
9-12½, F. D. Laney Eaves, Aug. 1970
9- 0, F. J. Fontenot, Dec. 1970
8-10, Paulton Hebert, Oct. 1958
8- 8, Gerald Fatzer, Oct. 1952
8- 1, Richard Mannino, July 1968

JACK CREVALLE:

40- 0, Edwin F. Stacy Jr., July 1953
39- 0, Nikola Francicevic, July 1970
36- 0, Theodore O. Oster, Aug. 1969
35-10, Courtney Linn Slatten, Sept. 1967
35- 8, Paul J. Sonnier, Sept. 1967
34- 4, Allen Wiseman, Aug. 1970
34- 2, Wilson P. Couch, May 1969
34- 0, L. E. Hawsey, July 1951
34- 0, Robert Buras, July 1970
33-12, L. J. Sandras, July 1966

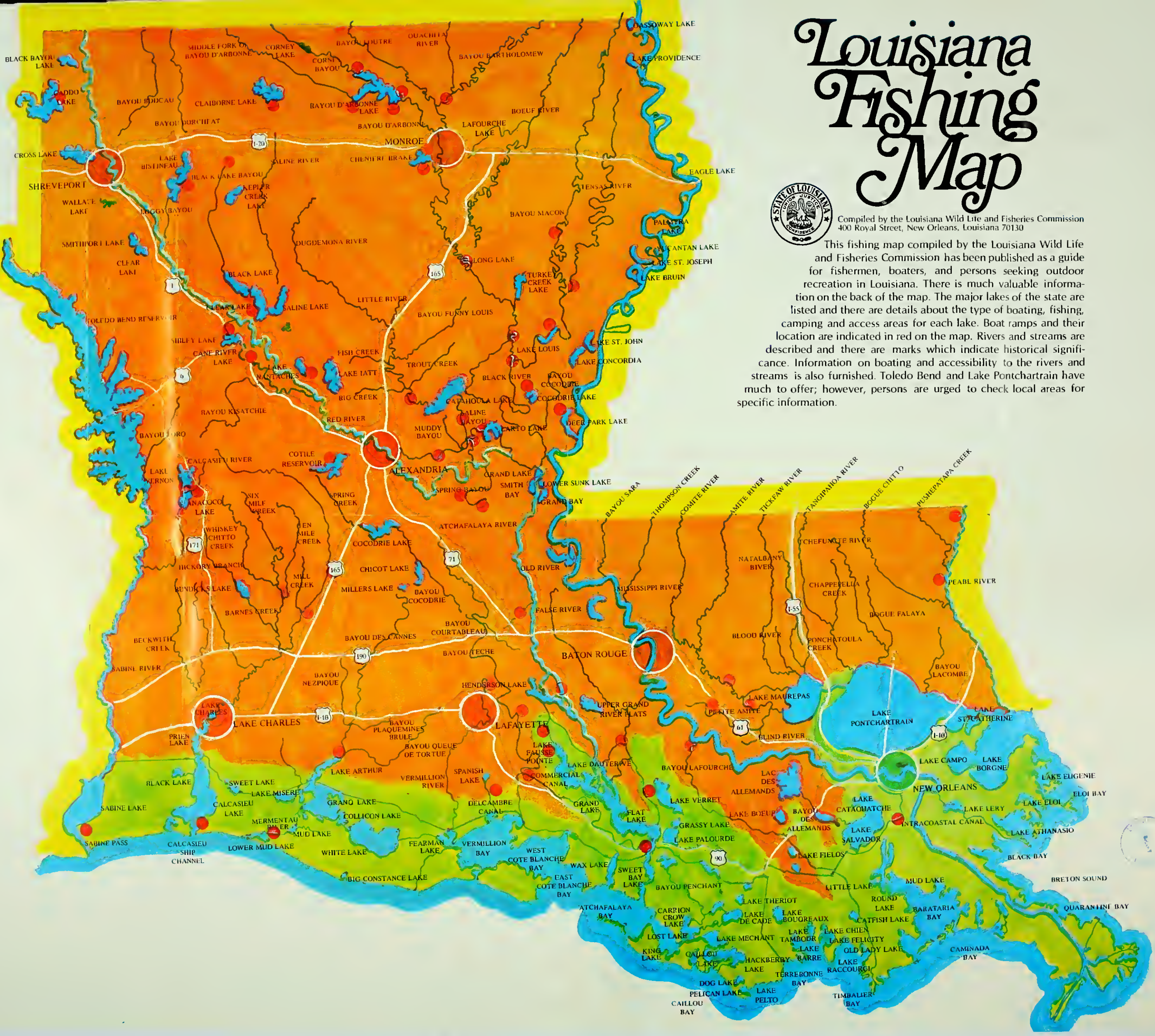
TO REMOVE MAP FROM MAGAZINE, OPEN STAPLES

Foldout map has been placed in a pocket in the back of this volume.

Louisiana Fishing Map

Compiled by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission
400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

This fishing map compiled by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has been published as a guide for fishermen, boaters, and persons seeking outdoor recreation in Louisiana. There is much valuable information on the back of the map. The major lakes of the state are listed and there are details about the type of boating, fishing, camping and access areas for each lake. Boat ramps and their location are indicated in red on the map. Rivers and streams are described and there are marks which indicate historical significance. Information on boating and accessibility to the rivers and streams is also furnished. Toledo Bend and Lake Pontchartrain have much to offer; however, persons are urged to check local areas for specific information.



LAKES

ASSUMPTION PARISH

LAKE VERRET—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access.

AVOYELLES PARISH

GRASSY LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access

SMITH BAY—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

BEAUREGARD PARISH

BUNDICKS LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, developed camping, good access.

BIENVILLE PARISH

LAKE BISTINEAU—Fishing, developed camping, water skiing, fair access.

KEPLER CREEK LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access.

CADDO PARISH

BLACK BAYOU LAKE—Canoeing bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access.

CADDO LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access

CROSS LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, good access

WALLACE LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, undeveloped camping, limited access.

CALCASIEU PARISH

LAKE CHARLES—Canoeing, bateau, hull, undeveloped camping, water skiing, good access

PRIEN LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, undeveloped camping, water skiing, good access

CALDWELL PARISH

LAFOURCHE LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

CAMERON PARISH

COLLICON LAKE—Hull, undeveloped camping, limited access

BIG CONSTANCE LAKE—Bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

BLACK LAKE—Bateau, hull, undeveloped camping, limited access

CALCASIEU LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, good access.

GRAND LAKE—Bateau, hull, undeveloped camping, limited access

LACASSINE REFUGE POOL—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

LAKE MISERE—Hull, undeveloped camping, limited access.

LOWER MUD LAKE—Bateau, undeveloped camping, limited access.

MUD LAKE—Bateau, undeveloped camping, limited access.

ROCKEFELLER REFUGE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access.

SABINE LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access

SABINE REFUGE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, good access.

SWEET LAKE—Hull, undeveloped camping, limited access

CATAHOULA PARISH

LAKE LOUIS—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access.

LARTO LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access

CLAIBORNE PARISH

CLAIBORNE LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, good access

CORNEY LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, developed camping, good access

CONCORDIA PARISH

LAKE CONCORDIA—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access.

LAKE ST JOHN—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access

OLD RIVER—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

DE SOTO PARISH

CLEAR LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, undeveloped camping, limited access.

SMITHPORT LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, undeveloped camping, limited access.

EAST CARROLL PARISH

CASSOWAY LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access.

LAKE PROVIDENCE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, water skiing, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access.

EVANGELINE PARISH

CHICOT LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, developed camping, fair access

MILLERS LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, good access.

FRANKLIN PARISH

TURKEY CREEK LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access.

GRANT PARISH

LAKE IATT—Canoeing, bateau, undeveloped camping, fair access

LAKE NANTACHES—Canoeing, bateau, undeveloped camping, fair access

IBERIA PARISH

LAKE FAUSSE POINTE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access.

IBERVILLE PARISH

UPPER GRAND RIVER FLATS—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access

SPANISH LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, undeveloped camping, limited access

JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH

LAKE ARTHUR—Canoeing, bateau, hull, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access

LAFOURCHE PARISH

CATFISH LAKE—Bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

LAKE RACCOURCI—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access.

LITTLE LAKE—Bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

MUD LAKE—Bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

ROUND LAKE—Bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

LAFOURCHE AND JEFFERSON PARISHES

LITTLE LAKE—Bateau, hull, fishing, water skiing, fair access

LA SALLE AND RAPIDES PARISHES

CATAHOULA LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, undeveloped camping, limited access.

SALINE LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, water skiing, undeveloped camping, fair access.

LIVINGSTON PARISH

LAKE MAUREPAS—Bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

MADISON PARISH

EAGLE LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access.

MOREHOUSE PARISH

BUSSY BRAKE—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access

NATCHITOCHES PARISH

BLACK LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access.

CANE RIVER LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access

CLEAR LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access

SIBLEY LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access

ORLEANS PARISH

LAKE ST CATHERINE—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

ORLEANS AND ST BERNARD PARISHES

LAKE BORGNE—Hull, fishing, undeveloped, camping, limited access.

PLAQUEMINES PARISH

GRAND LAKE—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

POINTE COUPEE PARISH

FALSE RIVER—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access

OLD RIVER—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

RAPIDES PARISH

COCODRIE LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access.

COTILE RESERVOIR—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, developed camping, water skiing, fair access

ST BERNARD PARISH

LAKE ATHANASIO—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping limited access

LAKE CAMPO—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE ELOI—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE EUGENE—Hull fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

ST CHARLES PARISH

LAKE CATAOUATCHE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access

LAKE SALVADOR—Bateau, hull fishing undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access

ST JOHN PARISH

LAC DES ALLEMANDS—Canoeing bateau, hull fishing undeveloped camping, water skiing limited access

ST MARTIN PARISH

HENDERSON LAKE—Canoeing bateau, fishing undeveloped camping, limited access

SPANISH LAKE—Canoeing bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access

ST MARY PARISH

FLAT LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access

GRAND LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing undeveloped camping, water skiing limited access

GRASSY LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access

LAKE PALOURDE—Canoeing, bateau hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access

SWEET BAY LAKE—Bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

WAX LAKE—Bateau, hull, undeveloped camping, limited access.

ST TAMMANY PARISH

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access

TENSAS PARISH

LAKE BRUIN—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, developed camping, water skiing, good access

LAKE ST JOSEPH—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, fair access

PALMYRA LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access

YUCATAN LAKE—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, water skiing, limited access

TERREBONNE PARISH

CAILLOU LAKE—Bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

CARRION CROW LAKE—Bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

DOG LAKE—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

KING LAKE—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE BARRE—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE BOUDREAUX—Hull, fishing undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE CHIEN—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE DE CADE—Bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

LAKE DE CADE (LOST LAKE)—Bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE FELICITY—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE FIELDS—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE HACKBERRY—Canoeing, bateau, hull, fishing, limited access

LAKE MECHANT—Hull fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE PELTO—Hull, fishing undeveloped camping limited access

LAKE TAMBOUR—Hull, fishing undeveloped camping, limited access

LAKE THERIOT—Bateau, hull, fishing undeveloped camping, limited access

OLD LADY LAKE—Hull, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

PELICAN LAKE—Hull fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

UNION PARISH

BAYOU D'ARBONNE LAKE—Canoeing bateau hull fishing undeveloped camping, water skiing, good access

VERNON PARISH

ANACOCO LAKE—Canoeing bateau hull fishing, undeveloped camping fair access

LAKE VERNON—Canoeing, bateau hull fishing, undeveloped camping fair access

VERMILLION PARISH

FEARMAN LAKE—Bateau limited access

WHITE LAKE—Bateau hull, undeveloped camping limited access

WINN PARISH

COOCHIE BRAKE—Canoeing, bateau undeveloped camping limited access

SALINE LAKE Canoeing, bateau hull fishing undeveloped camping, water skiing fair access

RIVERS & STREAMS

AMITE RIVER—Historical significance, canoeing, hulls at lower end only, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, developed camping at one location only, water skiing at lower end, fair access Boat ramp at Port Vincent, Hwy. 42 (Livingston).

ATCHAFALAYA RIVER—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hulls, undeveloped camping, limited access.

BAYOU BARTHOLOMEW—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

BAYOU BODCAU—Historical significance, canoeing, fishing, developed camping at lower end, limited access

BAYOU COCODRIE (CONCORDIA)—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hull difficult in certain areas, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

BAYOU COCODRIE (EVANGELINE)—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access.

BAYOU D'ARBONNE—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hulls difficult in certain areas, fishing, swimming undeveloped camping, limited access

BAYOU D'ARBONNE (MIDDLE FORK)—Scenic, canoeing difficult in certain areas, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

BAYOU DES ALLEMANDS—Scenic, historical significance, bateau, hulls, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, water skiing, good access at lower end.

BAYOU DES CANNES—Canoeing, bateau, swimming, undeveloped camping

BAYOU DORCHEAT—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau difficult in areas, hulls at lower end only, fishing, swimming, water skiing at lower end only, undeveloped camping, fair access. Boat ramp 5 miles east of Minden, Hwy 80 (Webster).

BAYOU FUNNY LOUIS—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access Boat ramp on Sicily Island

BAYOU KISATCHIE—Scenic, canoeing difficult, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, fair access

BAYOU LACOMBE—Scenic, historical significance canoeing, bateau, hulls at lower end only, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access.

BAYOU LAFOURCHE (LAFOURCHE)—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hulls difficult in certain areas, undeveloped camping, fair access

BAYOU LOUTRE—Scenic, canoeing, bateau difficult in certain areas, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

BAYOU MACON—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, limited access Boat ramp 5 miles west of Jct 572 in Lorelein, (Franklin).

BAYOU NEZPIQUE—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access

BAYOU PENCHANT—Historical significance, bateau, hulls, fishing, undeveloped camping difficult in certain areas, water skiing, limited access.

BAYOU QUEUE DE TORTUE—Historical significance, undeveloped camping

BAYOU SARA—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access

BAYOU TECHE—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hull at lower end, swimming, undeveloped camping, water skiing at lower end, limited access

BAYOU TORO—Historical significance, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access.

BECKWITH CREEK—Scenic, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, fair access

BIG CREEK—Scenic, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, fair access Boat ramp 15 miles north of Marksville, Louisiana, Hwy 115.

BLACK LAKE BAYOU—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing at lower end, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access

BLACK RIVER—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hulls, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access. Boat ramp in Jonesville, Louisiana

BLIND RIVER—Scenic, historical significance, bateau, hulls, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, water skiing, good access at lower end.

BLOOD RIVER—Canoeing and bateau difficult, hulls at lower end, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, water skiing at lower end.

BOEUF RIVER—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access.

BOGUE CHITTO—Canoeing, bateau, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, fair access. Boat ramp in Franklinton Hwy. 16, (Washington)

BOGUE FALAYA—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, fishing, swimming, developed camping at lower end, good access

CALCASIEU RIVER—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau and hulls difficult in areas, fishing, swimming undeveloped camping, water skiing at lower end only, fair access.

CHAPPEPELLA CREEK—Scenic, canoeing, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access

COMITE RIVER—Scenic, canoeing, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access

CORNEY BAYOU—Scenic, canoeing, bateau difficult in certain areas, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

DUGDEMONA RIVER—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, undeveloped camping, limited access

FISH CREEK—Historical significance, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access

HICKORY BRANCH—Scenic, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access

LITTLE RIVER—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hulls lower end only, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, fair access Boat ramp 10 miles southeast of Hwy 8 from Fishville

LOGGY BAYOU—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, undeveloped camping, limited access

MERMENTAU RIVER—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hulls, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access Boat ramp 30 miles east of Cameron, Grand Chenier Park (Cameron)

MILL CREEK—Canoeing, undeveloped camping, limited access.

NATALBANY RIVER—Scenic, canoeing difficult, bateau at lower end, fishing, undeveloped camping

OUACHITA RIVER—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hulls, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, water skiing, fair access Boat ramp Ouachita City off Hwy 143 (Union) Boat ramp east bank of Ouachita River in Harrisonburg (Catahoula).

PEARL RIVER—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hull difficult in certain areas, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, water skiing at lower end only, good access. Boat ramp approx 6 mi. east of Angie, (Washington) Bogalusa, Hwy. 26. (Washington).

BAYOU PLAQUEMINE BRULE—Historical significance, undeveloped camping.

PONTCHATOULA CREEK—Canoeing, bateau, undeveloped camping, limited access

PUSHEPATAPA CREEK—Scenic, canoeing difficult in certain areas, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access

RED RIVER—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hulls, undeveloped camping, limited access

SABINE RIVER—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau, hulls lower end only, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, water skiing at one location only, fair access Boat ramp at Sabine Pass east side of Sabine Lake immediately north of state Hwy 82 (Cameron).

SALINE BAYOU (CATAHOULA)—Scenic, canoeing, bateau, hulls, fishing, developed camping at lower end, water skiing Boat ramp on Larto Lake 14 miles south of Hwy 28

SALINE RIVER (WINN)—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing difficult in certain areas, bateau at lower end only fishing, swimming, developed camping, at lower end, limited access

SIX MILE CREEK—Scenic, canoeing, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, fair access.

SPRING CREEK—Scenic, canoeing difficult in certain areas, fishing swimming, developed camping at one location only, limited access

TANGIPAHOA RIVER—Historical significance, canoeing, bateau, fishing, swimming, developed camping, at one location, fair access.

TCHEFUNCTE RIVER—Scenic, historical significance, canoeing, bateau and hulls at lower end only, fishing, swimming, developed camping at one location, water skiing at lower end, fair access.

TEN MILE CREEK—Scenic, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access

TENSAS RIVER—Canoeing, bateau, hulls difficult in certain areas, fishing, undeveloped camping, limited access Boat ramp 10 miles southeast of Wisner, Louisiana, Hwy 562 (Franklin)

THOMPSON CREEK—Historical significance, canoeing difficult in certain areas, swimming, undeveloped camping, limited access

TICKFAW RIVER—Scenic, canoeing, bateau, hulls lower end only, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, water skiing lower end only, limited access

TROUT CREEK—Scenic, canoeing lower end only, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, fair access

WHISKEY CHITTO CREEK—Scenic, canoeing, bateau at one location, fishing, swimming, undeveloped camping, fair access Boat ramp 9.8 miles northwest of Oberlin on service road 26. (Allen)

BOAT RAMPS

AMITE RIVER—Port Vincent, Hwy 42 (Livingston)

ANACOCO LAKE—8 7 miles west of Jct of U S 171 in Leesville (Vernon) 8 miles west of Leesville on Hwy. 8 and 2 miles south Hwy 464 from Hwy 8 and 464 intersection (Vernon)

BAYOU BENOIT—20 miles south of Henderson on west Atchafalaya guide levee (St Martin)

BAYOU CHENE BLANC—1 mile south of Whitehall Hwy 22 4 miles east of Head of Island (Livingston)

BAYOU DORCHEAT—5 miles west of Minden, Hwy 80 (Webster)

BAYOU FRANCOIS—Gonzales on Hwy 61 (Ascension)

BAYOU LOUIS—Sicily Island (Catahoula)

BAYOU MACON—5 miles west of Jct. 572 in Lorelein (Franklin)

BIG CREEK—15 miles north of Marksville Hwy 115 (Avoyelles)

BLACK RIVER—Jonesville (Catahoula)

BOGUE CHITTO—Franklinton, Hwy 16 (Washington)

BUTTE-LA ROSE ATCHAFALAYA RIVER—5 miles south of Henderson east of W Atchafalaya guide levee (St Martin)

CADDO LAKE—3 miles south of Oil City 1 2 mile west of Hwy 1 (Caddo)

CALCASIEU RIVER—1 5 miles northwest of Oakdale on Service Road 10 (Allen) 3 4 miles northwest of Oberlin on Service Road 26 (Allen)

CALCASIEU SHIP CHANNEL—Adjacent to Cameron Ferry (Cameron)

CANE RIVER LAKE—3 2 miles south Jct of Service Road 1 in Natchez and Service Road 110 in Bermuda (Natchitoches)

CHENIERE LAKE—South side of Lake at Park Area I, off Hwy. 34 (Ouachita) North side of lake at Park Area IV, off I-20 (Ouachita)

COCODRIE LAKE—3 miles east of Lismore Hwy. 565 (Concordia).

COMMERCIAL CANAL—East bank of Commercial Canal, approximately 5 miles south of New Iberia (Iberia)

D ARBONNE LAKE—North side of lake at spillway off Hwy. 2 (Union) South side of lake at spillway off Hwy 15 (Union).

Hog Pen landing on Corney Arm off Hwy 2 (Union)

North of Hwy 151 at Lincoln Landing on D'Arbonne Arm (Lincoln)

DEER PARK LAKE—15 miles south of Vidalia off La Hwy 15 (Concordia)

DELCAMBRE CANAL—Adjacent to Delcambre (Iberia)

DREDGE CANAL—2 blocks west of Main Street in Lake Arthur, La (Jefferson Davis)

HALF-MOON BAYOU—3 miles west of Melville Hwy 10 (St Landry)

INTRACOASTAL CANAL—3 miles south of Crown Point, La. Hwy 45 (Jefferson).

LAKE BISTINEAU—Approximately 25 miles southeast of Shreveport—4 miles north of Ringold, east side of lake (Bienville)

LAKE CHARLES—Foot of I-10 bridge over Calcasieu River (Allen).

LAKE CLAIBORNE—10 miles southeast of Homer, 1 mile north of La Hwy 146 (Claiborne).

LAKE DAUTERIVE—25 miles south of Henderson on Atchafalaya guide levee (St Martin)

LAKE MARTIN—4 miles north of Parks Hwy. 31 (St Martin).

LAKE ST CATHERINE—Fort Pike, U.S Hwy 90 (Orleans)

LAKE VERNON—4 miles west and 3 miles north off Hwy 8 from Leesville (Vernon).

LAKE VERRET—5 miles south of Pierre Pass La Hwy 70 (Assumption)

LITTLE RIVER—10 miles southeast of Hwy. 8 from Fishville (Grant)

LONG LAKE—Approximately 30 miles south of Monroe and 5 miles east of Columbia (Caldwell)

MERMENTAU RIVER—30 miles east of Cameron Grand Chenier Park (Cameron)

MISSISSIPPI RIVER—Donaldsonville Hwy 1 (Ascension)

MUDDY BAYOU—Muddy Bayou on Saline WMA (La Salle)

LAKE NANTACHES—4 miles south of Montgomery and 1 mile north of Hwy 71 on La Hwy 1240 (Grant)

OLD RIVER—2 miles north of Mansura Hwy 1 (Avoyelles)

OUACHITA RIVER—East bank of Ouachita in Harrisonburg (Catahoula) Ouachita City, off Hwy 143 (Union)

PEARL RIVER—Bogalusa, Hwy. 26 (Washington)

PEARL RIVER (ANGIE)—Approximately 6 miles east of Angie (Washington)

PRIEN LAKE—On Lock Lane in the city of Lake Charles (Calcasieu)

SABINE PASS—East side of Sabine Lake immediately north of state Hwy 82 (Cameron)

SALINE BAYOU—14 miles south of Hwy 28 on Saline WMA (Catahoula)

SALINE BAYOU (YOUNGBLOOD LANDING)—Saline Bayou on Larto Lake, Saline WMA (Catahoula)

SIBLEY LAKE—In Natchitoches on Service Road 1 (Natchitoches)

SPRING BAYOU—Approximately 3 miles east of Marksville (Avoyelles)

TENSAS RIVER—10 miles southeast of Wisner La Hwy 562 (Franklin)

VERMILLION RIVER—Surrey St and Vermillion River in Lafayette (Lafayette)

WHISKEY CHITTO—9.8 miles northwest of Oberlin on Service Road 26 (Allen)

MARLIN, BLUE:
686- 0, Alvin E. DuVernay Jr., Aug. 1969
565- 0, Al R. Childress Jr., Aug. 1966
515- 0, Ben F. Vaughan III, May 1964
515- 0, William A. Good, June 1968
510- 8, James H. Green, Aug. 1970
503- 0, Clyde V. Hawk, Aug. 1967
500- 0, Clyde V. Hawk, July 1968
498- 8, Dennis L. Good, July 1967
497- 8, Duke Shackelford, June 1966
494- 0, Guy C. Billups Jr., July 1966

MARLIN, WHITE:
134- 0, Dennis L. Good, July 1967
110- 8, George M. Snelling III, May 1968
103- 0, Mrs. Al R. Childress Jr., May 1967
100- 0, William L. Manning, July 1966
99- 8, Harley B. Howcott, July 1967
98-0, Dr. John Chadwick, Oct. 1969
95- 8, Mrs. Mary Smith, May 1964
94- 8, DeWitt Rackley, Oct. 1967
93- 0, Dennis L. Good, June 1968
92- 0, Clyde Hawk, July 1959
92- 0, Harley B. Howcott, July 1966

MACKEREL, KING:
58- 8, Ray Cox, Aug. 1968
57-12, Eddie Sapir, Dec. 1970
57- 8, M. R. Lay, Nov. 1970
56-12, H. L. Kennedy, Nov. 1970
55- 0, George E. Marcuse, Nov. 1964
54- 8, Mrs. Wm. Massarini Jr., Dec. 1969
54- 0, Lamar Simmons, Dec. 1970
51- 4, James D. Parkenson, July 1970
51- 0, H. H. Reeves, Sept. 1968
51- 0, Buddy Pons, July 1960

MAKO SHARK:
280- 0, Leander H. Perez Jr., Aug. 1967
259- 8, J. W. Duffy, May 1970
190- 0, Dr. M. E. Brierre, July 1970
179- 8, Gen. Raymond Hufft, May 1966
179- 8, Guy C. Billups Jr., Aug. 1966
179- 0, Guy C. Billups Jr., May 1968
165- 4, Byron J. Thiac, May 1969
142- 8, John A. Brady Jr., Aug. 1968
121-12, Paul Kalman, May 1969

MACKEREL, SPANISH:
8- 4, Anthony C. D'Antonio, Nov. 1970
7-12, Addis McDonald, Sept. 1969
7- 8, Richard Gray, Nov. 1968
7-1½, Druby P. Giselair, July 1970
7-1½, Jewette Farley, Aug. 1970
6-15, Jesse P. LeBlanc, Aug. 1970
6-11½, Wilbert G. Melancon, Aug. 1970
6-11, Dr. Robert G. Yaeger, Nov. 1968
6- 8, Al Hoeke, Oct. 1959
6- 8, Leroy P. Wilson, July 1966
6- 8, J. Wilfred Daigle, July 1968

SHEEPSHEAD:
14-12, John N. Bourg, May 1970
12- 2, Dudley J. Bourg, Oct. 1970
11- 8, Mrs. Aubrey Bares, 1955
11- 8, Steve Troesch, Dec. 1956
10- 3, Joy Aguilar, Oct. 1969
8-10, Mrs. B. DeJean, Sept. 1968
8-6½, Donald Lewis, Aug. 1969
8- 4, Earl J. Markey Sr., Sept. 1970
7-12½, Earl J. Markey Sr., Oct. 1970
7-10, Donald Frederick, Sept. 1962

POMPANO:
8- 8, Buddy Pons, Dec. 1969
6-13, Hugh R. Babylon, Dec. 1970
6-10, Clement Andollina, Dec. 1970
6- 4, Felix C. Byxbe, Dec. 1970
6- 3, Louis U. Thornton, March 1967
5-12, Cecil Jones, Nov. 1970
5-12, Holt H. Fastring, Dec. 1970
5- 9, Bill Duffy, Jan. 1964
5- 9, H. H. McCain, Dec. 1953
5- 8, Tony Sebastian, Jan. 1955

REDFISH:
56- 8, O. L. Comish, Sept. 1963
51- 8, Philip A. Robinson, June 1967
45-12, Joseph Vetrano, Oct. 1957
45- 8, Nick Martinolich, Aug. 1970
44- 1, Joseph G. Wenzel Jr., Nov. 1967
43- 0, Sylvia Theriot, July 1959
42-10, J. Edward Slatten Jr., May 1967
42- 6, George J. Derise, Feb. 1968
42- 0, John Fischtzier, July 1959
42- 0, Dr. Stephen J. Hebert, Sept. 1968

SAILFISH:
96- 0, John Lauricella, Oct. 1953
85- 0, Arnold O. Domin, July 1965
80- 0, Dennis L. Good, October 1967
78- 8, Dr. Jerry R. Smith, June 1968
77- 8, Tim Sebastian, July 1964
77- 0, Mrs. Camille Cazedessus, Sept. 1955
77- 0, Lee Adams Jr., June 1969
72- 8, Mrs. John R. Chadwick, July 1968
71- 0, Earl J. Markey Sr., June 1967
70- 4, Harry Smith, July 1959

SNAPPER:
74- 0, Jim Meriwether, Oct. 1963
35- 0, Marvin E. Griffin, Aug. 1967
30- 8, Richard A. Borney, Aug. 1969
29-12, Albert Pusch, Aug. 1967
28-12, Oscar H. Hutson, June 1970
27-12, Jack DeWald, Aug. 1970
27- 0, L. J. Simon, July 1965
27- 0, Oscar H. Hutson, June 1970
26- 4, Lamar Simmons, July 1967
25- 8, Joe Miciotto III, 1965

SPADEFISH:
9- 4, Benny Avera, Dec. 1969
8- 3, Charles Sebastian, Aug. 1963
6-15, Sam Sharp, July 1966
6-10¼, Robert J. Hote, Aug. 1966
6- 4, Wayne Spencer, July 1966
6- 2, Lawrence Chouest, July 1961
6- 0, Richard Glynn, July 1962
5-12, Mrs. Jimmy Toups, July 1968
5-10, Henry Cook, July 1959
5-10, George A. Donalson, July 1966
5-10, Roger Eymard, July 1969

TARPON:
198- 8, Oswald Frey, Sept. 1951
185- 0, George C. Fakier Jr., Aug. 1970
183- 0, Mark Brown, July 1935
176- 0, Ted St. Pierre, Aug. 1970
168- 0, George C. Fakier Jr., Sept. 1969
166- 0, Schuyler Thibodeaux, Aug. 1965
165- 0, Kenneth J. Domangue, Sept. 1969
164- 4, John Brady, June 1965
164- 0, Gary Orgeron, July 1970
163- 8, David Willoughby, Sept. 1966

TRIPLETAIL:
39- 8, Mrs. Jimmy Toups, July 1959
33-12, Mrs. Mary G. Blackmon, Aug. 1970
33- 0, Bob Moran, June 1953
32- 0, Jimmy Toups, July 1970
29- 0, Mrs. Jimmy Toups, July 1969
26- 8, Mrs. Jimmy Toups, July 1970
25- 4, Mrs. Clavena Cognevich, Aug. 1970
23-12, Dennis Dimak, Aug. 1964
23- 8, John E. Blanchard, July 1969
23- 0, Jimmy Toups, July 1969

TROUT, SPECKLED:
12- 6, Leon Mattes, May 1950
10-12, Randolph D. Green, Aug. 1970
9-14, James L. LeMay Sr., April 1970
9-12, John W. Burns, March 1968
9-12, Anthony J. Bianca, Aug. 1970
9- 8, Richard F. Muller Jr., June 1970
9- 4, Joseph E. Frey, April 1967
9- 3, Judge Charles F. Gallo, April 1968
9- 2, Jack Burniston, Aug. 1956
9- 0, Walter E. Tabony, Oct. 1967

TUNA, BLUEFIN:
440- 0, Jim Meriwether, May 1963
120- 0, Pete Menefee, July 1966

TUNA, BLACKFIN:
18- 0, Franklin C. Fisher Jr., Aug. 1966
16- 4, Mrs. J. R. Gandy, Sept. 1964
15- 0, Robert Levert Jr., Aug. 1963
11- 1, M. F. Claverie, Jr., Sept. 1968
9- 2, Andrew H. Herron III, Sept. 1968
8- 8, Charles S. McFarland, Sept. 1968
7- 0, Mrs. M. F. Claverie Jr., Sept. 1968
7- 0, Judith E. Herron, Sept. 1968

TUNA, YELLOWFIN:
(Allison)

199- 8, William A. Good, July 1969
196- 8, Guy C. Billups Jr., May 1966
196- 0, Clyde V. Hawk, June 1968
181- 0, Richard H. Braud, June 1966
180- 0, Clyde V. Hawk, June 1966
179- 0, George C. Stringer Jr., July 1970
174- 0, Homer John Moore III, 1964
161- 0, Harley B. Howcott, July 1965
160- 0, Charles Duchein Oct. 1960
155- 0, Kingsley Bodman, June 1957

WAHOO:
110- 0, Mrs. Homer J. Moore Jr., 1964
90- 9, Clyde V. Hawk, July 1968
76-12, Ed Hamilton, July 1963
70- 8, Alfred Hitter Jr., June 1968
70- 3, Harley B. Howcott Jr., July 1963
70- 0, Clyde Sharp, May 1960
65- 0, Clyde V. Hawk, Aug. 1967
64-12, W. C. Scheppegrell, July 1963
62-12, William Good Jr., July 1968
60-12, Nick C. Bouzon, 1958

CROAKER:
(Atlantic)

5- 5, Eugene Lefort Jr., Aug. 1970
5- 4, Eugene Lefort Jr., Oct. 1970
5- 2, Lloyd J. Babin, Oct. 1969
4-14, Joseph D. Toups Jr., 1966
4-10, Eugene Lefort Jr., Oct. 1970
4-9½, Eugene Lefort Jr., Oct. 1970
4- 9, Eugene Lefort Jr., Oct. 1970
4- 8, Eugene Lefort Jr., Oct. 1970
4- 6, Eugene Lefort Jr., Oct. 1970
3-10, George H. Koch, June 1968

SPEARFISH:
78- 0, Larry Bulot, July 1964
20- 4, Mrs. Guy C. Billops Jr., 1969

BROADBILL SWORDFISH:
112- 8, George M. Snellings III, July 1969

POMPANO: (African)
8- 4, Robert C. Brummel, July 1969

THE COMMISSION'S LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Latest acquisition of land by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission took place December 7 when the Commission purchased 12,978 acres of land in lower Concordia Parish, now known as the Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area. Shown with Governor McKeithen, in whose office the Act of Sale took place, are, from left James L. Winfree, Member of the Commission, Clark M. Hoffpauer, Commission Director; Robert J. Munson, State Representative; H. Clay Wright, Commission Vice-Chairman, Jerry G. Jones, Chairman of the Commission, Richard K. Yancey, Assistant Commission Director and State Representative Norman L. Ordeneaux

Opposite page—1. Deer hunting 2. Camping

There is an old saying, the origin of which is obscure, that makes more sense with each passing year. It goes something like this. "If you have the opportunity to buy any land, do so. They aren't making anymore of it." It is not a trite expression and the more one reflects on it, the more significant it becomes.

Although the general public may not be aware or concerned about vast changes that are taking place in land usage across the country, sportsmen and conservationists are. Land is being cleared at such a rapid rate for agricultural and other purposes that the next generation will have to depend in great part on wildlife management areas for public hunting.

The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission today manages a total of 33 Wildlife Management Areas, and the Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl Management Area. The acreage involved in these areas is approximately 850,000, and the lands are either owned or leased by the Commission. They provide public hunting, fishing, camping, boating, bird watching and many other forms of outdoor recreation.

The program is now 10 years old and the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has purchased 172,177 acres of land permanently dedicated to be used as wildlife management areas for present and future generations.

The need for permanent acquisition of bottomland hardwood forest areas, as well as wetland areas, has long been evident to the Commission, for well over a decade. An article in a recent issue of the Louisiana Conservationist entitled "Our Vanishing Delta Hardwoods" traced what is taking place in the state. It also projected the diminishing supply of game and fish that would be available to the public in the years ahead, unless areas containing hardwood timber stands could be obtained by the state and permanently dedicated to

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4. Deer hunting 5. Geese hunting 6. Squirrel hunting 7. Rabbit hunting.

recreational use.

The article pointed out that the bottomland hardwood region in the lower Mississippi Valley is one of the most productive game and fish habitats to be found on the continent. Its forests teem with deer, squirrel, rabbit, wild turkey, waterfowl and raccoons, all of which are extremely important to hundreds of thousands of sportsmen who reside in the delta.

The fate of the fish and wildlife resources of the bottomland hardwood region depends upon future land use practices. The forest game birds and animals must have food and cover if they are to survive. Obviously, if all of the hardwood timber is removed from the land in the lower delta, Louisiana is going to lose most of its forest game populations.

Since agriculture in the delta lands is also highly dependent on adequate drainage most of the natural streams and small rivers will be channelized and converted to canals. At that point the value of such areas for sport and commercial fishing will have virtually disappeared.

Briefly turning back the calendar to 1960 when the program of land acquisition began under Governor Davis' administration, here is a picture of Louisiana's bottomland hardwoods and what has taken place in the years since then.

In North Louisiana the bottom land hardwood region is comprised of approximately 5,627,494 acres. By 1961, the total acreage remaining in hardwood had diminished to 3,300,158 acres. By 1969 land clearing operations further reduced the acreage in bottomlands to 2,521,511 acres.

This means bottomland hardwoods were being removed at a rate of 111,235 acres a year between 1962 and 1968. Since the land clearing shows no sign of letting up it is estimated that the bottomland hardwoods in North Louisiana will for all practical purposes have been eliminated by 1991.

Obviously, this is going to have a disastrous effect on forest game populations and the sport of hunting. Without adequate food, water and cover conditions wildlife cannot survive. Since it is expected that most of the natural streams that flow through the hardwoods will also be destroyed by drainage projects, sport and commercial fishing can be expected to diminish proportionately.

A forward step was made in December of 1960 when 15,172 acres were acquired outright by the Commission and permanently dedicated as a wildlife management area. This area in Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes was named the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area.

The major timber type found on the land is over-cup oak, bitter pecan, willow and water oak, ash and elm. Game species common to the area include squirrel, rabbit, deer, raccoon, opossum, waterfowl, and a scattering of mink and otter.

Another forward step was made in March of 1964 with the purchase of 50,019 acres in LaSalle and Catahoula Parishes. The bulk of this tract lay in LaSalle Parish, with 1,340 acres in Catahoula Parish.

The program of land acquisition was greatly accelerated under the administration of Governor John J. McKeithen. With the full support of the Louisiana Legislature, a total of 107,005 acres were purchased by the state. This boosted the amount of acreage to a sizeable 172,196 acres preserved for all time for sportsmen, and to be permanently used as wildlife management areas open to the citizens of the state, free of any charge or fee.

Four months after taking office Governor McKeithen authorized the purchase of an additional 10,000 acres adjacent to the Saline Wildlife Management Area, then under option. This extended the combined tracts to the Larto lakeshore, providing increased public access to additional bodies of freshwater fishing.

The area was occupied by a vast stand of hardwood bottom land timber comprised of overcup oak, bitter pecan, red oak, and elm with a potential for development of game populations to the extent that it is fast becoming one of the state's most important forest game and waterfowl hunting areas.

Fishing is excellent in the area and this acquisition guaranteed access to this sport for public use in the future. The property borders Catahoula Lake on the northwest and is bounded on the south and southwest by Saline Bayou and Saline Lake. On the east the boundary generally follows the line that separates LaSalle and Catahoula Parishes, although it overlaps into Catahoula Parish and includes considerable frontage on Saline Bayou.

This provided the gateway for public access into the waters that extend from Larto Lake to Catahoula Lake for the purpose of hunting and fishing. At the rate that bottomland hardwoods are being cleared in northeast Louisiana for agricultural purposes, this may well be one of the last remaining large hardwood forest areas left in a few years for public use.

With Louisiana's last remaining backwater and overflow areas now being leveed and drained this is already one of the last such areas in the state. This overflow condition creates an ideal environment for sport and commercial fishing and this is the reason that the waterways in this area now offer some of the best fishing.

The Saline Wildlife Management Area offers excellent freshwater fishing, deer, squirrel, rabbit and dove shooting, with waterfowl in the fall and winter.

This marked only the start of outright land acquisition, permanently dedicated to public use for outdoor recreation, by Governor McKeithen under whose administration 107,005 acres of land have been purchased, almost doubling all lands owned outright by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission prior to the day that he took office.

The Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area was acquired in November of 1966. Located in Avoyelles Parish, this wildlife management area consists of 11,237 acres and is one of the most picturesque tracts ever acquired by the Commission. It offers excellent hunting and fishing. Some of the lakes and waterways are studded with stately cypress trees draped with beards of Spanish moss. The ridges offer hardwoods that provide squirrel, rabbit and some deer hunting. The lakes abound in bass, bream and big crappie. In the fall and winter there is excellent duck hunting.

In December of 1966, an Act of Sale took place in Governor McKeithen's office and the Red River Wildlife Management Area in Concordia Parish became a reality. The original tract consisted of 12,977 acres. Later, in 1968, an additional 4,008 acres were purchased, making a total of approximately 17,000 acres.

This land lies in lower Concordia Parish and is bordered on the south by the Red River. The additional acreage adjoined the original wildlife management area on the southwest and extends to the Mississippi River.

The timber type is primarily bitter pecan and overcup oak.

The additional 4,008 acres, lies between the Mississippi River and Bayou Cocodrie. The entire wildlife management area offers deer, squirrel and rabbit hunting, with waterfowl hunting during the regular duck season.

In December of 1968, with full approval of Governor McKeithen, the Commission purchased two large tracts of marshland, totaling 55,973 acres. Acquisition of these two tracts of land was in keeping with the Commission's policy of acquiring land for wildlife purposes, and will not only provide today's sportsmen with places in which to hunt and fish, but will assure future generations of Louisiana sportsmen permanent places in which they can enjoy the recrea-

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8. Dove hunting 9. Turkey hunting 10. Duck hunting 11. Rabbit hunting tional opportunities provided by hunting and fishing.

The Commission designated the two areas involved in this purchase as the Salvador Wildlife Management Area and the Pointe-au-Chien Wildlife Management Area. The two names are not only useful in locating the areas geographically, but are also colorful reminders of the Spanish and French influence of the coastal marshes of the state.

The Salvador Wildlife Management Area is located in St. Charles Parish along the northwest shore of Lake Salvador and is comprised of 28,243 acres. This area is primarily a freshwater marsh type and is broken up by numerous marsh ponds throughout the area which provide ideal conditions for produc-

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tion of desirable waterfowl food plants.

The Pointe-au-Chien Wildlife Management Area is located approximately 15 miles southeast of Houma in Terrebone and LaFourche Parishes, and is composed of 27,978 acres. The marshes of this area are slightly brackish due to its relatively close location to the Timbalier Bay complex. This is an ideal situation for the production of tremendous stands of desirable waterfowl food plants such as widgeon grass, southern majas, coco and three-cornered grass.

Purchase of the two tracts of marshland have been widely hailed by sportsmen as one of the finest land acquisitions made by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. This is particularly true of waterfowlers who in the past have been denied the opportunity to hunt because they were not members of private clubs, or were unable to afford private leases.

On December 7, 1970, an additional purchase of land was made. Approximately 12,978 acres of land in the extreme lower part of Concordia Parish was acquired by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. The Act of Sale was signed in the Governor's office on that day.

The tract is located about 51 miles south of Vidalia and is almost adjacent to the Grassy Lake and Red River Wildlife Management Areas. It is occupied by a hardwood forest and offers excellent deer, squirrel and rabbit hunting. Some areas of the tract will be utilized for waterfowl hunting, and watered areas offer excellent bass, crappie and bream fishing.

This is an excellent tract of bottomland hardwoods that is now known as Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area, the name derived from the fact that it is adjacent to where the Red, Atchafalaya and Old Rivers meet.

The 107,005 acres of land purchased during the administration of Governor McKeithen at a total cost of $5,012,217.50 averages out to a cost of $46.84 per acre. This represented prime land for wildlife management at a fair price, something that is becoming increasingly difficult these days.

It should be pointed out that appraisals were made by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, and reviewed by the United States Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to evaluate each tract. As a result, of the $2,594,500 paid by the state for the Red River, Spring Bayou, and Three Rivers Wildlife Management Areas; one-half, or $1,487,250, was refunded to the state by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

[illegible] hunting
[illegible] hunting
[illegible] hunting

[illegible] Woodcock hunting

Turkeys, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.?

BY LIONEL TREADAWAY

When Louisiana turkey hunters take to the woods March 27, they have a better chance of bagging a gobbler than ever before. Due to the extensive turkey restocking program being carried on by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission there are more wild turkeys in Louisiana now than there have been in several decades.

Estimates put Louisiana's wild turkey population in the hundreds of thousands prior to the cutting of our virgin timber in the late 1800's. This number rapidly dropped in the early 1900's and by the mid-1940's there were an estimated 1500 birds left in the entire state. The threat of total extinction of Louisiana's entire wild turkey population seemed a distinct possibility.

The expansion of turkey flocks was attempted by means of trapping and moving resident wild birds to new locations throughout the state. This expansion was augmented by restrictions on the hunting season and daily bag limits as well as closed seasons.

The first turkey trapping efforts in Louisiana met with little success. Walk-in wire traps, baited with grain were employed but showed few results. A second attempt, baiting the traps with live, domestic turkeys was also discarded. With only two turkeys being caught in 1962, the prospects looked grim.

During the fall and winter months, when the turkey trapping program is in full swing, the birds can usually be found in the remaining hardwood forests of the state and along river battures, when a good mast crop is available. In the spring and summer months the birds will almost always search out pine and hardwood timber stands that have the least possible amount of heavy brush.

In 1963 the extensive research which had been done on trapping procedures began to pay off. A total of twenty birds were caught on the Georgia-Pacific Wildlife Management Area in Monroe. Of the twenty, nine were moved to the Bodcau Wildlife Management Area near Bellevue, with the remaining eleven being sent to the

Russell Sage Management Area, east of Monroe.

In 1964 nine more birds were trapped and sent to the Russell Sage Area.

The first bumper year for turkey trapping was 1965. A total of 57 birds were captured and shipped to seven different management areas in the hope of establishing resident flocks . . . Since 1965 the number of wild turkeys captured each year has steadily increased.

To date a total of more than 700 birds have been moved to various locations throughout the state. The vast majority of these have been released at wildlife management areas which were found to be suitable for wild turkey flocks. A limited number of these birds have come from as far away as Alabama, Florida and Mississippi.

After experimenting with various types of devices used to trap turkeys, the commission decided in favor of the recoilless cannon net. This net is powered by black powder charged, steel projectiles and has been found to be the most efficient device to date.

A typical turkey trapping operation is carefully planned. Crews are sent into the field to look for tracks and turkey sign. After a likely spot has been located where it is known that birds are feeding, the crews begin the task of removing brush and sapling trees which would hinder the operation. Bait consisting of wheat and corn is then put out in the hope of keeping the birds in that location.

Wild turkeys will normally range between one and two miles a day when feeding. During warmer weather the birds have been known to roam as far as six to eight miles in the course of a day, which makes predicting their whereabouts almost impossible.

The next step in the trapping operation is the construction of a turkey blind. These blinds are usually made of 1/2 inch plywood and consist of four sides and a top. The blinds are painted dark green for camouflage purposes with slits cut in the sides which enable the men to watch the birds. They will hold from one to two men each. During the operation they are manned from before sunrise until sunset, with the men keeping constant watch for the flocks.

Once the birds have been seen to take the bait, a folded net approximately 40 feet by 60 feet is placed in a straight line upon the ground, facing the cleared area. The net, made of cord mesh with inch square openings is used to trap the birds.

Steel projectiles similar to rockets are attached to the net. These projectiles which are powered by black powder charges propel the net over the birds. After the rockets have been wired in series they are hidden from view by leaves and brush. Once these preparations have been made, the crews are ready to attempt a shot.

On the day chosen to fire the net, the blind is manned at least one hour before sunrise. The men positioned in the blind site are linked by two-way radios to a backup crew which assists after the net has been fired, trapping wild turkeys.

When the birds get into a favorable position in front of the net, the men in the blind fire the rockets. The time taken to get the net up and over the birds can run from one to three seconds, depending on trajectory and net size.

Immediately after the net is fired the men in the turkey blind and the backup crew begin the task of securing the birds. Split second timing is of the essence in this part of the operation, as turkeys have been known to come from a head-down feeding position to full flight in six-tenths of a second.

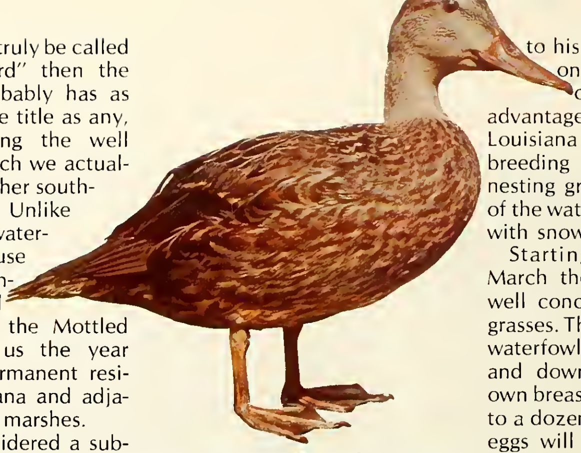
Once the birds have been removed from the net, numbered metal bands are secured to their legs. Banding information as to sex, date, and areas of capture and release are then recorded.

The next step in the operation is to place the turkeys in ventilated cardboard boxes for shipment to the release site. The most crucial phase of the entire operation then begins. Wild turkeys will go into shock and die if kept in captivity for extended periods of time.

The birds are transported in relay fashion to the point at which they are to be released. Extreme care has to be taken in transporting turkeys to keep the temperature of the birds' surroundings below 45°, as heat will adversely affect them.

From continued research in the field of turkey trapping new methods are constantly being tried to lessen the chance of mortality in transplanted birds. Research has brought to light a tranquilizing drug which can be mixed with the bait. This drug which is presently being used in the Monroe area, causes the birds to lose consciousness and remain so until their release. It is felt that the drug will greatly reduce the number of birds lost from shock.

Through this research the Commission hopes to have comparable results with the wild turkey as with the white-tailed deer population. Current estimates put the number of wild turkeys present in our state between six and eight thousand. If this trend continues to increase, avid turkey hunters should be able to bag many more birds than the present total of 250 to 300 yearly.



MOTTLED DUCK

Anas fulvigula maculosa

BY CHARLES R. SHAW

If any bird could truly be called the "Louisiana Bird" then the Mottled Duck probably has as valid a claim on the title as any, not even excluding the well known Pelican which we actually share with the other southern coastal states. Unlike the majority of waterfowl which only use our state as a wintering ground and go north to nest, the Mottled Duck stays with us the year round, being a permanent resident of the Louisiana and adjacent Texas coastal marshes.

This bird is considered a subspecies of the Florida duck by many but since there is a geographic separation and the birds are not migratory we can consider our birds as a distinct population, to all intents and purposes.

The Mottled Duck is, of course, a member of the Mallard family and a close relative of the well known Mallard of sportsmen's acclaim. The family resemblance is strong and it is very similar to the famous Black Duck which is so eagerly sought after by the waterfowl hunters of the Atlantic Flyway. These ducks and the Florida Duck and Mexican Duck (including the New Mexican) have both sexes in similar plumage rather than the gaudy accouterments of the male Mallard with his shiny green head and colorful plumage.

The Mottled Duck can be distinguished from the female Mallard by the fact that it has no white outer tail feathers and has only one white bar on the wing while the female Mallard has two. It greatly resembles the northern Black Duck but is not as dark and has a greenish speculum rather than a purplish one and also has a white wing bar. The throat is more buffy rather than streaked. The latter characteristics apply more specifically to the bird in the hand, of course. As a matter of practical rule of thumb, if you have any doubts as to whether your duck is a true Black Duck or a Mottled Duck, it usually can safely be called a Mottled Duck since there is really very little doubt when you hold one of the northern birds in your hand. This is in spite of the fact that our bird is often known in our areas as the "Black Mallard" or sometimes "Summer Black Mallard".

The Mottled Duck is a bird of the coastal marshes, with which Louisiana is more plentifully blessed than other states, and rarely is found inland to any extent. With the minor exceptions of our local population of Fulvous Tree Ducks on the edge of the rice country and a few scattered Blue-winged Teal here and there, this is our only resident marsh nesting duck.

During a late waterfowl season the waterfowl hunter will observe that the Mottled Ducks are usually flying in pairs (also noting that they seldom come in to his decoys) enroute from one small pothole to another. These birds take advantage of our relatively mild Louisiana climate to begin their breeding activities while the nesting grounds of the majority of the waterfowl are still covered with snow.

Starting generally around March these ducks build their well concealed nests of native grasses. These are lined in typical waterfowl fashion with feathers and down plucked from their own breasts. A clutch of from six to a dozen of the greenish-white eggs will be found in the nest which will be located, usually but not always, near the edge of a pond or lake. Occasionally the nests will be well out into the marsh away from any open water. For some reason the coastal salt water or brackish marshes are preferred habitat with only a few birds invading the fresh water territory lying to the north.

The incubation period is about 28 days on the average and the downy young resemble common Mallard ducklings but are somewhat paler.

Feeding habits resemble those of typical dabbling ducks with perhaps more vegetable matter being consumed than is true for other members of the family.

Since much of the restrictive waterfowl legislation is based on the Mallard it is very important to the Louisiana sportsmen that the Mottled Duck retain its identity as a distinct species. Since this bird is a non-migratory species essentially, we in Louisiana are largely responsible for its well being the year round not just in the winter as with most other ducks. The future of the Mottled Duck will depend on how well we preserve our marshes as prime waterfowl habitat and there will be no way to "pass the buck" in the event of a drastic decline of this species.

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